(a) how many persons entitled to get pension have superannuated after the enactment of new pension scheme, 1995 and superannuation pension of how many of them have so far been regularised;

(b) whether the rates of superannuation/family pension have at all been revised since the enactment of the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, pension claims are settled on receipt of formal applications from the beneficiaries. As on 31.1.2000, superannuation/retirement pension has been sanctioned in 2,98,784 cases.

(b) to (d) Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, there is a provision for valuation of the pension fund and review of pensionary benefits on an annual basis. On completion of the first annual valuation, an increase of 4% on pension in payment was sanctioned to the pensioners *w.e.f.* 16.11.1996. Again on completion of the second annual valuation, additional relief of 5.5% has been sanctioned to the pensioners. *w.e.f.* 1.4.1998. The minimum amount of children pension has been enhanced from Rs. 115/to Rs. 150/per month, the minimum amount of orphan pension from Rs. 170/to Rs. 250/per month and the minimum widow pension under the ceased Family Pension Scheme raised to Rs. 450/per month.

Amendment in Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970

1592. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government are thinking to bring necessary amendment in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 in view of decision on Air India case relating to appropriate Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): No, Sir.

Bonded Labour

1593. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that bonded labour is still prevailing dauntlessly in many parts of the country;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that contract system too is practised these days on a large scale, wherein contractors keep nearly half of the wages of labourers with themselves;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, number and details of the bonded labourers, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Incidence of bonded labour, in a few parts of the country are reported by the State Governments from time to time.

(b) and (c) The Contract labour Act, 1970 provides for engagement of contract labour through a contractor, in such jobs where the appropriate Government has not prohibited employment of contract labour. The rules, framed under the Act provide provisions and procedures for payment of the wages, which shall not be less than the wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, by the appropriate Government.

The complaints relating to violation of the provisions of Act and the Rules are brought to the notice of the implementation machinery for appropriate remedial action including launching of prosecution, if any. No survey about violation of the provisions of the Act has been made.

(d) and (e) As per the latest survey conducted by all the State Governments/UTs during October—December, 1996, as many as 28916 bonded labourers have been identified in different States. State-wise details of the bonded labourers identified in the survey are given below:

	Name of State	Number of Bonded Labourers identified
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3526
2.	Bihar	106
3.	Karnataka	19
4.	Madhya Pradesh	18
5.	Uttar Pradesh	237
6.	Maharashtra	2
7.	Tamil Nadu	25008
	Total :	28916